

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGE HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: UPI NEWS ITEM 150

QUOTE: WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SEN. HENRY JACKSON, D-WASH.,
CHARGED WEDNESDAY THE SOVIET UNION HAS PUT AT LEAST 500
ACTIVE TROOPS IN SYRIA TO OPERATE A SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE
NETWORK.

JACKSON, IN A SPEECH PREPARED FOR THE B'NAI B'RITH ANTI-
DEFAMATION LEAGUE IN NEW YORK, SAID THE TROOPS WERE
AMONG SOME 2,000 SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL NOW IN SYRIA.
HE CHURGED THAT"SOVIET EFFORTS TO FOMENT INSTABILITY
AND INTRANSIGENCE IN SYRIA HAVE QUICKENED. THE SOVIETS
HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN SUPPORT OF A SYRIAN MILITARY BUILD-UP
AND A DIPLOMATIC DEMOLITION JOB."

NEITHER PENTAGON NOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE
ABLE TO OFFER ANY CONFIRMATION OF JACKSON'S CONTENTION.

JACKSON HIMSELF GAVE NO SOURCE FOR THE ALLEGATION.

JACKSON'S STAFF SAID HE HAS BEEN USING THE FIGURE OF
2,000 SOVIET MILITARY MEN IN SYRIA FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUT
THIS WAS THE FIRST ALLEGATION THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE
ACTIVELY OPERATPNG SYRIAN AIR DEFENSES.

IN THE SPEECH JACKSON SAID IF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER

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ANDREI GROMYKO "WISHES TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT

WILL COOPERATE IN BRINGING ABOUT A DISENGAGEMENT (OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES) HE MIGHT WELL BEGIN BY

DISENGAGING THE RUSSIAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE FROM ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDER.

JACKSON, A 1976 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER WHO ESPOUSES A HARD-LINE ANTI-SOVIET POSITION, ALSO WAS CRITICAL OF WHAT HE TERMED A "SHIFT OF SOVIET ACTIVITY

TO IRAQ, SYRIA, ADEN, SOUTH YEMEN AND SOMALIA." HE SAID THE SOVIETS SOUGHT TO PRESSURE PRO-WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, AND "POSE A GREAT AND GROWING THREAT TO WESTERN INTERESTS IN THE PERSIA GULF." END QUOTE. RUSH

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